

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING  
March 9, 2015**

<b>COA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
Mary Beachley	Sue Ramsburg	Ann Holiday	John Brown	Cindy Powell
Elizabeth Chung	Pat Rosensteel	Randy McClement, Mayor	Joy Hall-Onley	Melanie Cox
Ernell Graham	Carolyn True			Sonja Sperlich
Carol Haag				Diane Lewis
M.C. Keegan-Ayers				Tish Raff
Tom Lawler				
Katie Rhinehart-Hemler				
Virginia Skelley				
Roberta Speace				
Cynthia White				

- I. **Call to Order** – Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Carol welcomed all attendees. Introductions were done around the table.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – Carol would like to add an opportunity for public comment following today's presentation in addition to the public comment at the end of the meeting. A report from the Nominations Committee will also be added to the agenda.

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**IV. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the February 9th meeting were approved. Ginny Skelley made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Beachley seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**V. Mayor's Report** – Mayor Randy McClement was unable to attend today's meeting.

**Councilmen's Report** – M.C. Keegan-Ayers has no report today.

**VI. Presentation, "The Vision of Montevue: Alive for a New Century" - Cindy Powell, Melanie Cox, and Sonja Sperlich** – This presentation represents the fourth recommendation from the recent Leadership team report. This recommendation speaks to the need for strengthening the continuum of shelter, rehabilitative, skilled care and affordable housing for seniors. Today's presentation will focus on the Team's suggestion to stop the sale and transfer of Citizen's Care and Rehab and Montevue Assisted Living. Historically, this Commission has opposed the sale of these facilities. Some Frederick County residents continue to pursue appeal and court actions. Carol introduced the citizens who will make the presentation today. Cindy Powell and Melanie Cox are also members of a group called Advocates for the Aging of Frederick County. Joe Berman who is also a member was not able to attend today's meeting. Sonja Spurlich is delayed today because she is delivering MoWs.

Cindy Powell presented information regarding the history of Frederick County's support for indigent Frederick County residents and the corresponding support for the CCRC/Montevue property. Montevue has historically bridged the gaps in service for those who are unable to live alone safely and cannot afford services which would allow them to live alone safely. Montevue has had seventy-five beds and has never been able to fulfill all the needs of the county. This is an asset for care giving family members as well as for residents. This group has been very active and vocal about maintaining this asset. It is not about saving only the building, it is important to save the services and mission.

Cindy reviewed a summary of important positions and information in a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation included information in regard to the specific needs of the community and the role CCRC/Montevue has had in fulfilling these needs. This "Vision" comprehensive plan is based on two core values which are community support for the poorest and case management services in a continuum of care. Cindy reviewed the proposed steps to meet the goals.

1. Recognize that Montevue is a business resource.

2. Contract with a competent business manager with community oversight.
3. Income from CCRC would provide core funding for continuum of care for the frail elderly.
4. Re-invent the current senior services model to include more case management
5. Advocate on the State level to ensure more Medicaid Waiver services/funding

There are different levels in the continuum of care options. There is a range from living at home independently to living at home with some support to moving into a facility whether it is independent living, assisted living or long term care/hospice care. There is an associated increase in services and funding required as the levels change.

This Vision goes beyond the main campus of CCRC/Montevue. This is a community based vision which would involve local business participation/growth and encourage public-private partnerships. This group will continue to educate and advocate on this Vision. Cindy encourages members of the Commission to contact their County Council Representatives and County Executive to let them know their views on this issue.

**VII. Business Task Force Update Tom Lawler** – Tom reported that the last scheduled meeting was cancelled for various reasons. The Business Task Force is working on several initiatives. They are currently planning a symposium to be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Frederick Senior Center. It will be sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. There will be a keynote speaker, break out sessions, and vendor displays. They also have an interest in the Senior Center Plus concept and hope to tour the Daybreak facility. This group is creating a single brochure with county-wide information and resources.

**Director's Report, Carolyn True** – Carolyn reviewed the 2016 budget appeals submitted from the Department of Aging. She appreciates the Commission's readiness to advocate on behalf of the Department concerning these requests. The amount of the request is \$262,000 for all four appeals. The first appeal pertains to the Maryland Access Point (MAP) staff position. The federal funding will end for the MAP program at the end of fiscal 2015. This was expected but the funding elimination is coming sooner than expected. The second appeal is for the County to fund the personnel costs related to the Senior Care program. This will allow all grant funding to go directly to client care. The third and fourth requests are for new positions. One position is for a Program Specialist. The Department

currently has one Program Specialist but the need and volume of the clients has steadily increased. Some of the client needs are complex and time consuming. The second position is for a Volunteer Coordinator. This position has been requested in previous years and was recognized as a need in the Needs Assessment. The Department currently has some excellent volunteers; however there is a need for someone to recruit, manage, and retain current and future volunteers. Carolyn previously emailed a document with the relevant information regarding these requests. Two of these are requests are to maintain current personnel and services. The need for alternative funding for the MAP program is shared by other counties in the state. It is difficult to find funding for this as it is an on-going expense and cannot be relieved with one-time grant funding. There has been discussion on this issue at Area Agency on Aging meetings.

The waiting list for the Senior Care Program would not change if the appeal request was approved. The appeal request is for personnel costs. The current wait list is approximately six to nine months. If the funding is approved, it would allow grant funding to be spent on DME or other client based costs. There is already going to be a 2% cut in state funding for this program. The Volunteer Coordinator would reach out to private business and the private sector to establish relationships and recruit new volunteers. Currently the Department has submitted a Volunteer Maryland application. If this position funding is approved, that application would be withdrawn. The appeal requests have been submitted to the County Executive. She will construct the budget and it will be presented by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The County Council will be holding hearings on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If there are significant changes, a second hearing will be held the third week in May. The calendar is on the County website. The County Council will need to approve a budget by May 25<sup>th</sup>. The County Council cannot add to the budget, they can only decrease items. Ginny Skelley made a motion that the Commission draft a letter of support for these requests to be sent to the County Executive. Cindi seconded the motion. All were in favor. Bobbie and Carol will work together to draft the letter. The budget schedule for the County Council is as follows; April 21 at 7pm will be a budget hearing, if there are substantial changes there will need to be a second hearing on May 18 or 19 or both. May 21 is the legislative day and the final budget will be due.

**Commission letter to restore Adult Day Care subsidies, Bobbie Speace** – Bobbie drafted a letter which was sent in support of not decreasing subsidy funding to Daybreak which is an adult daycare program in Frederick County. Bobbie will check to see if there is any new information on this issue.

- VIII. Grant Award Announcement, RSVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program, Elizabeth Chung** - Elizabeth reported she has received a grant award for the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Frederick County. Elizabeth read the grant award announcement to the audience. This is an important program to bring back to Frederick.

**Senior Leadership Report, Commission Committees-April Meeting, Carol Haag** - The recommendations from the Senior Leadership Team have been presented to County Executive Jan Gardner. Carol will pass along information regarding these recommendations for discussion at our next meeting. This report will help decide how to form future committees on this Commission.

**Nominations, Katie Rhinehart-Hemler** – Katie reported that Don Cilla and John Hannon have both resigned from the Commission. The Commission hopes to have two new official members, Diane Lewis and Tish Raff, approved in the near future. The need for new commission members has been advertised.

**Legislative, Tish Raff** – Tish reported on some of the upcoming legislative bills which may affect senior citizens. There is a bill to give a tax credit for citizens who purchase long term care insurance. There is currently a one time credit in place; however this would allow for a ongoing credit. There is a bill regarding Death with Dignity which allows an individual, within strict criteria, to get medicine to make a final end of life decision. There is a Savings and Trust bill which involves participation in a state administered retirement plan. There are some bills which would exclude retirement income from taxation. Bills that will lessen the revenue flow or are controversial have less chance of passing. Tish encourages anyone to view the general assembly website to see what the legislative leaders are doing.

- IX. Announcements** – The Community Alternative Mediation (CALM) of Frederick will be holding a program, Mediating with the Elderly and their Families, on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Frederick Senior Center from 10am until 12pm. Carol will send out the flyer via email.

The Affordable Housing Council will be having a speaker series and the first event, Affordable Housing in Frederick County - Moving Beyond Shelter, on Wednesday, March 18 at 7pm to be held at FCC.

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The First Missionary Baptist Church will be having a Health Fair on April 11<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the church at 6430 Jefferson Pike.

Carol received a report on the state of nursing homes in Maryland and Washington DC. She would also like to discuss this report at next month's meeting. Cindy Powell stated that these reports have been recently updated.

Carol would like to plan to discuss the development of "Villages" concept in Frederick County at May's meeting.

- X. Public Comment** – Dianne Lewis appreciates the need for the DoA priorities but she stated that she believes it is important to do thorough research for future funding for the MAP staff position in areas other than government funds.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg  
Recording Secretary